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# Congress of the United States

## House of Representatives

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October 5, 2003

The Honorable John Ashcroft  
Attorney General of the United States  
U.S. Department of Justice  
10th and Constitution Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Mr. Attorney General:

As the Ranking Member of the House Committee on the Judiciary, I write to request that you send investigators to California to monitor the upcoming recall/ gubernatorial election on Tuesday, October 7, 2003. It is my urgent belief that federal investigators are critical to a fair and just election process, and that without their immediate oversight and intervention, California will suffer irreparable damage equal to the debacle of Florida during the 2000 Presidential election.

Having spent the past several days observing the pre-election process and more specifically the numerous concerns expressed by minority voters relative to polling places and the downsizing of polling locations, I am convinced that federal investigators are imperative, and should be dispersed to California post-haste.

I look forward to discussing this matter with you at your earliest possible convenience and trust that you will use all the powers under your authority to ensure a fair and just election in California. The confidence of a nation depends on it.

Sincerely,

  
John Conyers, Jr.  
Ranking Member